



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
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## ***Press Release***

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Davenport (703) 440-1720

### **Public Invited to Archaeological Investigation at 18<sup>th</sup> Century Farmstead in Charles County, Maryland**

The public is invited to visit an archaeological evaluation of the Chiles Homesite, a remnant 18<sup>th</sup> century homesite located on the Douglas Point tract in Charles County, Maryland, on Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday April 1<sup>st</sup>. The property is managed by the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) in collaboration with the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Visitors are encouraged to attend any of the days during the week; however the best days to visit the site are Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. each day. Professional archaeologists will be available throughout the week to lead free tours, demonstrate the methods of archaeological evaluation, and discuss current findings while emphasizing the importance of managing and preserving historic resources on your public lands.

Based on documentary and architectural evidence, historians and archaeologists believe that the Chiles Homesite, also known as Mt. Pleasant, was built around 1790 and occupied as a family residence and working farmstead into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Later occupants of the homesite include the Reverend William E. Chiles, an early minister of the Nanjemoy Baptist Church.

The fieldwork conducted during the week of March 28<sup>th</sup> will be the first professional archaeological investigation of this site and will produce a better understanding of historic lifeways and settlement patterns along this part of the Potomac River.

The Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with the College of William & Mary – Center for Archaeological Research, will be conducting this evaluation. Children and adults are encouraged to attend this unique opportunity to interact with archaeologists involved in active fieldwork in Charles County.

The Douglas Point tract is located along Maryland State Highway 224, immediately south of Liverpool Point Road and one mile north of Purse State Park. Signs and marked access to the archaeological site will be in place during the week of field investigations.

You should expect a hike of ¼ to ½ mile through the woods with uneven and muddy terrain. Visits to the site are informal, with no appointments necessary for individual visitors or small groups.

For larger groups, or if you have additional questions, please contact the BLM's Lower Potomac Field Station at (703) 339-8009.

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